

Trojans team wins four of five on road

By Kayla Cornett
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The Colby Community College baseball team defeated McCook Community College 5-2 last Thursday in Nebraska and won three of four in Great Bend against Barton County Community College on Saturday and Sunday.

In McCook, K.J. Morales, Dylan Klava, Drew Posegate and Kyle Matusoff pitched for the Trojans. Together, they had 7 strikeouts and allowed 6 hits, 2 runs and 10 walks. The Trojans had 2 errors.

Scott Jones, who went 2 for 3 at the plate with a home run and 1 run batted in, led the team at the plate.

In Great Bend, the team won the first game 8-7, lost the second 10-5 and won the third and fourth ones 12-3 and 12-4.

In game one, Mike McLaughlin, Bert Guzman, Matusoff and Jacob Nath were on the mound for Colby. Overall, they had 5 strikeouts and allowed 12 hits, 7 runs and 7 walks, along with 7 errors.

Nick Bata led the bats for the Trojans with 4 for 4 hitting, 2 home runs and 3 runs batted in. He also scored 3 runs.

For the second game in Great Bend, Devin Chavez and Cole Holt took the mound. Chavez pitched for a little more than five innings, where he had 6 strikeouts and allowed 5 hits, 6 runs and 2 walks. There were 6 errors during his set. Holt pitched for less than one inning, had 1 strikeout and allowed 2 hits, 4 runs and 3 walks. There were 2 errors during his set.

Nath was the leading hitter for Colby, going 2 of 4 at the plate and knocking in 1 run. He also accounted for 1 run.

David Johnson went all the way for the Trojans in game three, throwing seven innings with 2 strikeouts and 8 hits, 3 runs and 1 walk. The team made just 1 error.

The top hitters for Colby were David Bauer and Zach Wilson, who were 2 for 3 at bat. Both accounted for 3 runs and Wilson had 2 runs batted in.

In the final game, Posegate

pitched all nine innings. He struck out 11 strikeouts and allowed 6 hits, 4 runs and 3 walks. The team made 4 errors.

Austin Russell and Brandon Wilson led the Trojans at the plate at 3 for 5. Russell came across home plate three times while Wilson scored once. Wilson knocked in 3 runs and Russell brought in 1.

"It was a really good week and weekend for us," said Coach Ryan Carter. "We continue to swing the bats well, and even our outs are usually hit hard. We pitched very well this weekend against Barton and scored a lot of runs against a very good staff."

"These wins put us right in the mix of things. We will continue to work and hope that our best baseball is still ahead of us."

The Trojans are tied with Seward County Community College for first place in the Jayhawk Conference West. The next home games will be at 1 p.m. both Saturday and Sunday against Dodge City Community College on the college field.



KATHRYN BALLARD/Colby Free Press
K.J. Morales pitched against McCook Community College on Thursday during a Colby Community College baseball game on the college field.

Western riders compete in semifinals in Delaware

Three Colby Community College western riders traveled with coach Shanda Mattix and assistant coach Elizabeth Kinnally to Newark, Del., for the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association semifinals from last Thursday to Sunday.

Freshmen William Wright, Louisburg, and Heather Darling, Abilene, road in the reining competition. Sophomore Mariah Woolsoncroft, Salina, was in novice horsemanship.

The students qualified for the semifinals by placing in the top two at the regional championships. They were competing against the top 16 riders to earn one of four spots at nationals.

"When the results were in, Heather was eighth

in her class," said Mattix. "Will and Mariah did not make the top eight. Although we would have liked to ride at nationals, this is a huge accomplishment for young riders."

"The majority of the teams we were riding against were universities showing their experienced junior and senior riders. Will and Heather will be returning to the team next year, so I expect to see great things from them again."

The Colby riders will show at Stanford, Calif., over Easter weekend for the Hunt Seat Zones. It is the qualifying show for nationals in that discipline.

Colby High track girls hope for repeat season

By Kayla Cornett
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The Colby High track team is coming off of an excellent season and Coach Gordon Rasmussen said the team has high hopes to do just as well this year.

The girls won the Class 4A Regional meet last spring and tied for first at the State Championships last May.

The team got 41 points at state, tying with Baldwin High School. Emilea Finley won the 1,600 meters and 800 meters and placed second in the 3,200. She set school records in the 1,600 with 5:05.6 and in the 3,200 with 11:20.8.

Finley, a senior this year, took

first place in every event she competed in last season except two: the 800-meter run at regionals and the 3,200 meters at state.

The highlight of the season for the boys was winning the Colby meet.

The girls had six representatives at state while there was one runner for the boys.

Finley, Brenna McKee, Paige Roopchan, Morgan Bell, Katrina Kaus and Kayla Hockersmith were the girls on the gold-medal team and Logan Middleton represented the boys.

Of that group, Kaus, Hockersmith and Middleton graduated last year, along with Josh Middleton, Kale Arnberger, Troy Koon, Austin and Brian Schieterman,

Corbin Stephens, Anna Taylor and Abby Rohr.

Rasmussen said that he expects the girls to be a strong team again this season but that the boys may have some difficulty.

"For the girls, we should have a really strong team," the coach said. "For the boys, we have a lot of strong individuals, but probably not enough to do well, especially in bigger meets."

"We've got a few really good kids who will score a lot of points for us at meets."

The teams will have their first meet today in McCook, Neb., followed by another on Thursday in Norton. Colby will have its home meet on Friday, May 4.

This year's Final Four brings big programs to New Orleans

By Eddie Pells
AP National Writer

NEW ORLEANS — Looking for those charming underdog stories? Go find the DVD from last year.

This year's Final Four brings together an ensemble of big-name schools, all saddled with their typically big-time issues — a reminder that everything in college sports is not as pure as the NCAA and its "student-athletes" would like us to believe.

In the national semifinals Saturday, Kentucky plays Louisville and Ohio State meets Kansas.

All the schools have made headlines for a variety of off-the-court reasons over the last several months, including the proliferation of one-and-done players, stories about coaches in courtrooms and a handful of financial misdeeds involving recruits, players, coaches and even ticket managers.

And so, while there are no little vs. big stories this year ... we're regaled with tall tales of redemption and resurrection: Teams and coaches that overcame their problems and got everyone thinking

about basketball instead of the underside of a business driven by a \$10.8 billion TV contract.

For his part, Calipari is perfecting the art of luring a player for one, maybe two seasons, to contend for a championship, then saying a guilt-free goodbye.

During his more candid moments, he'll tell you he's no fan of the rule that allows players to leave college after a single year. But it's out of his hands.

What's a coach to do?

"I think they trust that when the year is out, they're going to get the right information and be treated fairly," Calipari said. "They don't worry about it..."

It means freshmen Anthony Davis and Michael Kidd-Gilchrist, both projected as high lottery picks, probably will be gone after this season, and it's not impossible to think the rest of the starting lineup — all freshmen and sophomores — could leave, as well.

Calipari, who has had NCAA trouble at every step along his college head-coaching career, said this is a price worth paying for running a "players-first" program

— with players who worry about winning first, then reap the benefits when the NBA comes calling.

While he applauds his team's unselfishness, the NCAA insists it is toughening its academic standards and isn't so concerned with the 15 players who do leave after one year, but rather the 5,500 who don't.

The NCAA hasn't been as big a player at Kansas, but that's not to say the Jayhawks are immune to corruption.

Last May, five athletic department employees and consultants got between 37 and 57 months' prison time for unlawfully selling football and basketball season tickets to ticket brokers and others, then pocketing the money.

Athletic director Lew Perkins saw his name sullied, and although he wasn't accused of any wrongdoing, he retired a year ahead of schedule in the wake of the scandal.

Kansas duo gives big post presence

By Dave Skretta
AP Sports Writer

NEW ORLEANS — Jeff Withey has had plenty of bloody noses. The big guy from Kansas has been whacked by flying elbows too many times to count. He's had bruise the size and color plums.

That's just what he's gotten courtesy of teammate Thomas Robinson.

The Jayhawks' inside tandem has pushed each other to get better all season, and all those rough-and-tumble practices are finally paying off. Robinson and Withey have Kansas in the Final Four, ready for Jared Sullinger and Ohio State on Saturday night.

"It's going to be a fun matchup. Throughout the year we've played against some really good big men," Robinson said Thursday.

Hardly bigger than the one they give each other in practice,

though. The rise of Robinson, and to some extent Withey, mimics the rise of Kansas this season.

Neither played significant minutes last year — Robinson had trouble cracking the lineup, Withey was an afterthought. Neither showed up on major early season watch lists, and neither had the kind of imposing post presence they've established over the past

five months.

Meanwhile, Kansas was picked as co-favorite in the Big 12 almost by default, though whispers had grown louder that perhaps this would be the year the Jayhawks finally slipped. They had lost a bevy of talent to the NBA. When a trio of recruits failed to qualify academically, it left a team that was supposedly short on talent even shorter of depth.

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